

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (Original) A vehicle steering apparatus comprising:  
a steering mechanism for turning a steerable tire-wheel;  
a steering actuator for providing a steering force to the steering mechanism;  
a load detecting unit for detecting a tire load, which is a load applied to a tire of a vehicle; and  
a steering control unit for controlling the steering actuator according to the tire load detected by the load detecting unit.
2. (Currently Amended) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 1,  
wherein the load detecting unit comprises an air pressure detecting unit for detecting ~~the~~ an air pressure of the tire.
3. (Previously Presented) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 1,  
wherein the load detecting unit comprises a stress detecting unit for detecting a stress applied to the tire.
4. (Currently Amended) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 3,  
wherein the stress detecting unit ~~preferably~~ includes a left side stress detecting unit and a right side stress detecting unit for detecting stresses applied to ~~the~~ a left side and ~~the~~ a right side of the tire, respectively, when viewed toward ~~the~~ a direction of travel of the vehicle.

5. (Currently Amended) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising:

a steering direction detecting unit for detecting ~~the~~ a steering direction of the vehicle[;];

wherein the steering control unit controls the steering actuator based on the steering direction of the vehicle detected by the steering direction detecting unit and ~~the~~ stresses detected by the left side stress detecting unit and the right side stress detecting unit, respectively.

6. (Currently Amended) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 5,

wherein the steering control unit controls the steering actuator based on the steering direction of the vehicle detected by the steering direction detecting unit and ~~the~~ stresses applied on the outer portions of the tire when viewed in the direction of travel detected by the left side stress detecting unit and the right side stress detecting unit.

7. (Currently Amended) A vehicle steering apparatus in which the steering mechanism for turning the steerable wheel is operated according to an operation of ~~the~~ an operating member for steering the vehicle, comprising:

a reaction force actuator for providing an operation reaction force to the operating member;

a load detecting unit for detecting ~~the~~ a tire load which is applied to ~~the~~ a tire of the vehicle; and

a reaction force control unit for controlling the reaction force actuator according to the tire load detected by the load detecting unit.

8. (Currently Amended) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 7,  
wherein the load detecting unit comprises an air pressure detecting unit for detecting  
the an air pressure of the tire.
9. (Previously Presented) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 7,  
wherein the load detecting unit comprises a stress detecting unit for detecting a stress  
applied to the tire.
10. (Currently Amended) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 9,  
wherein the stress detecting unit comprises ~~the~~ a left side stress detecting unit and ~~the~~  
a right side stress detecting unit for detecting stresses applied to ~~the~~ a left side and ~~the~~ a right  
side of the tire, respectively, when viewed toward ~~the~~ a direction of travel of the vehicle.
11. (Currently Amended) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 10, further  
comprising:  
a steering direction detecting unit for detecting ~~the~~ a steering direction of the vehicle,  
wherein the reaction force control unit controls the reaction force actuator based on  
the steering direction of the vehicle detected by the steering direction detecting unit and the  
stresses detected by the left side stress detecting unit and the right side stress detecting unit,  
respectively.
12. (Currently Amended) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 11,  
wherein the reaction force control unit controls the reaction force actuator based on  
the a steering direction of the vehicle detected by the steering direction detecting unit and the

stresses applied on ~~the~~ outer portions of the tire when viewed in the direction of travel detected by the left side stress detecting unit and the right side stress detecting unit.

13. (Currently Amended) A vehicle steering apparatus is in which a steering mechanism for turning a steerable tire-wheel is operated according to ~~the~~ operation of an operating member to be operated by a driver, comprising:

an actuator for applying a force to the operating member for transmitting information to the driver;

at least one sensor for detecting ~~the~~ a physical amount relating to ~~the~~ a movement of the vehicle and outputting ~~the~~ a detection signal according to ~~the~~ a detected result;

a signal analyzing unit for analyzing the detection ~~detected~~ signal output by the sensor and supplying an analytical solution; and

a control unit for controlling the actuator based on the analytical solution supplied from the signal analyzing unit.

14. (Currently Amended) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 13 ~~11~~, further comprising:

a first determining unit for determining whether ~~or not~~ the analytical solution analyzed by the signal analyzing unit conforms to a predetermined first reference condition; and

a teaching unit for providing, when the analytic solution of the signal analyzing unit conforms to the predetermined first reference condition, a teaching corresponding to ~~the~~ a result of determination to the driver.

15. (Currently amended) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim ~~14~~ 13, further comprising:

a second determining unit for determining whether ~~or not~~ the analytical solution analyzed by the signal analyzing unit conforms to a predetermined second reference condition;

wherein when the analytic solution of the signal analyzing unit is determined to conform to the second reference condition by the second determining unit, the control unit controls the actuator according to the analytic solution.

16. (Currently Amended) A vehicle steering apparatus for operating a steering mechanism for turning a steerable tire-wheel according to ~~the~~ an operation of an operating member to be operated by a driver, comprising:

an actuator for applying a force to the operating member for transmitting information to the driver;

a load detecting unit for detecting ~~the~~ a tire load which is a load to be applied to the a tire of the vehicle;

a steering mechanism system detecting unit for detecting ~~the~~ a physical amount applied to the steering mechanism;

a vehicle condition detecting unit for detecting the physical amount relating to the movement of the vehicle;

a control unit for controlling the actuator based on ~~the~~ a result detected by at least one of the load detecting unit, the steering mechanism system detecting unit, and the vehicle condition detecting unit; and

a teaching unit for giving a predetermined teaching to ~~the~~ a driver based on the result detected by at least one of the load detecting unit, the steering mechanism system detecting unit, and the vehicle condition detecting unit.

17. (Previously Presented) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the load detecting unit comprises a stress detecting unit for detecting a stress applied to the tire.

18. (Previously Presented) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the load detecting unit comprises a stress detecting unit for detecting a stress applied to the tire.

19. (Previously Presented) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising:

a second determining unit for determining whether or not the analytical solution analyzed by the signal analyzing unit conforms a predetermined second reference condition; wherein when the analytic solution of the signal analyzing unit is determined to conform the second reference condition.

20. (New) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the steering apparatus comprises a steer-by-wire system.

21. (New) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the steering apparatus is devoid of a mechanical linkage between a steering wheel and said steering mechanism.

22. (New) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said steering actuator provides the steering force to the steering mechanism to steer the front left and front right wheels of the vehicle.

23. (New) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said load detecting unit comprises an air pressure detecting unit for detecting the air pressure of the tire and a stress detecting unit for detecting a stress applied to the tire.

24. (New) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said stress detecting unit comprises a right side stress sensor and a left side stress sensor.

25. (New) The vehicle steering apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said air pressure detecting unit and said stress detecting unit are disposed along an interior surface of each tire of the vehicle.